



MISAC

MUNICIPAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

President's Message

Dear Fellow MISAC Members, Partners and Friends,

As we all should be aware, the [Ralph M. Brown Act](#), California's open meetings law, requires that most meetings of public agencies' legislative bodies—such as city and town councils, boards of supervisors, special district boards of directors and school boards—be open to the public. The Brown Act also imposes agenda posting rules that ensure transparency and encourage participation, including requiring public agencies that maintain a website to post agendas online.

[Assembly Bill 2257](#), enacted by the State Legislature in 2016, further facilitates public access to legislative body agendas posted online. The new online agenda posting requirements apply to all meetings of local public agency legislative bodies held on or after January 1, 2019.

Is your community compliant?

There are [two different ways](#) in which public agencies may meet the requirements of AB 2257, according to [Teresa Stricker](#), a partner at San Francisco-based [Renne Public Law Group](#): First, the agency may post a visible direct link to the current meeting agenda on the agency's primary homepage. Or second, when using a separate webpage dedicated to providing the legislative body's agenda information, the agency may post a link to the current meeting agenda on the integrated agenda management platform if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- A direct link to the legislative body's integrated agenda management platform (the dedicated agenda information webpage) must be on the agency's primary homepage.
- The direct link to the integrated agenda management platform must take the user directly from the agency's homepage to a website with the agendas of the legislative body.
- The current agenda must be the first agenda available at the top of the integrated agenda management platform.

All online agenda postings also must be:

- Free of restrictions on reuse or redistribution, i.e. downloadable, printable and attachable
- Able to be indexed, electronically searched and read by machines
- Platform independent
- Available to the public free of charge

While AB 2257 does not provide specific guidance about how public agencies satisfy these standards, MISAC supports broad implementation of the requirements to further the bill's purpose of facilitating access. Please check with your city attorney to confirm your compliance!

Collaborating to respond to these requirements brings to mind MISAC's prior work with Senate Bill 272, the [California Public Records Act](#), which requires posting of agencies' enterprise software catalog. After that legislation's approval in October 2015, MISAC engaged with the City of Garden Grove to develop a cataloging app that produces a document appropriate for posting to agencies' websites.

The [SB 272 web application](#), says Anand Rao, information technology director for the City of Garden Grove, was created to help MISAC member agencies comply with California SB 272 to catalog Enterprise Information Technology Systems. The application guides users through data gathering that is consistent with the law and allows for not only easy annual updates but also easy publishing of the catalog. Agencies also may use the tool to compare data with other agencies through the built-in search feature. The application was created and is running on all open-source software, including Linux OS, Apache/Ruby on Rails web server and PostgreSQL database.

MISAC also has initiated enhanced efforts to communicate and collaborate with [Granicus](#), the "800-pound gorilla" of the meeting streaming business, including setting up a focus group to interact with several high-level managers, appointed by their CEO following a meeting with MISAC leadership at the 2018 Annual Conference. Topics under discussion include increased transparency about Granicus' product road map, mergers with and acquisitions of similar products, help desk and ticketing systems, as well as technical support.

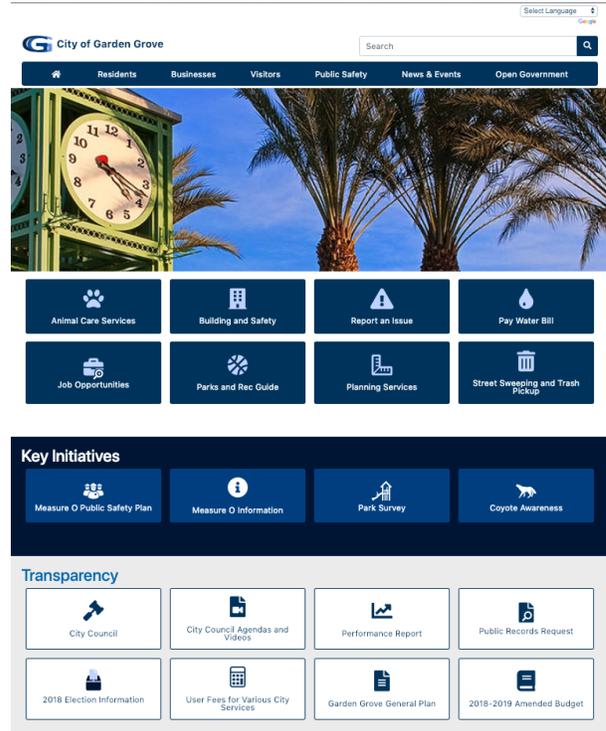
If you want to share your thoughts or to volunteer, please contact me.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to serve as your president and to help MISAC continue to provide unique resources for information technology practitioners in California's local government sphere.

We expect about 250 colleagues, friends and partners to join us for learning, networking and fun. Please plan to join us, and keep an eye out on the listserv for a full program announcement and registration information. Hope to see you there!

</Tim Williamsen, P.E.>

P.S. MISAC's State Board members are proud to serve as leaders in our field. As such, modeling the same transparency and accountability the public demands of our home agencies just makes sense. Therefore, moving forward, MISAC will add a link to State Board content on the members-only home page, with quick access to agendas, meeting materials and minutes. Watch for an announcement of this new feature's formal launch on the listserv and in MISAC Matters.



www.misac.org

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